IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 3 to 10 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 11 to 14 have been added. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for controlling a fuel cell system, in which a hydrogen-containing reformer gas is produced in a reformer unit by selectively separating the reformer gas from a gas mixture using a diaphragm module having a separation diaphragm, the method comprising:

during normal operation of the fuel cell system:

keeping the gas mixture at a higher pressure than the separated reformer gas;

supplying the reformer gas to an anode side of a fuel cell module; and

supplying an oxidation agent to a cathode side of the fuel cell module, the fluids on the anode side and the cathode side of the ~~diaphragm~~ fuel cell module being separated by a ~~separation diaphragm unit~~ membrane electrode assembly; and

in case of the bursting of the diaphragm:

holding a pressure differential between a side of the reformer unit facing the anode side and the cathode side of the fuel cell module below a predefined value, the predefined value corresponding to a pressure differential that causes damage to the membrane electrode assembly.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~differential~~ pressure differential is essentially held below 500 mbar.

Claims 3 to 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (new): The method recited in claim 1 wherein the step of holding the pressure differential between a side of the reformer unit facing the anode side and the cathode side of the

fuel cell module below a predefined value further includes limiting a pressure change caused by the flow of the gas mixture towards the anode side of the fuel cell module.

Claim 12 (new): The method recited in claim 1 wherein the step of holding the pressure differential between a side of the reformer unit facing the anode side and the cathode side of the fuel cell module below a predefined value further includes, during fabrication of the fuel cell system:

providing the fuel cell module, including the membrane electrode assembly, on a low pressure side of the separation diaphragm; and

dimensioning a first volume for circulation of fluids on a high pressure side of the separation diaphragm and a second volume for circulation of fluids on the low pressure side of the separation diaphragm so that the first and second volumes are proportioned so that the pressure differential between the side of the reformer facing the anode side and the cathode side of the fuel cell is held below the predefined value.

Claim 13 (new): The method as recited in claim 12 wherein the first and second volumes are fixed so that the first volume is substantially smaller than the second volume.

Claim 14 (new): The method as recited in claim 12 wherein the first and second volumes are fixed so that the second volume is six to eight times larger than the second volume.